

Table 56-1 Percentage distribution of 1989–90 beginning postsecondary students according to selected student characteristics, by parents' highest education level

Selected student characteristics	Total	First-generation status		
		First generation	Parents have some college	Parents have bachelor's or advanced degree
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sex				
Male	46.0	42.7	45.6	51.9
Female	54.0	57.3	54.4	48.2
Age in 1989–90				
18 years or younger	61.2	49.4	66.7	79.2
19–24 years	24.3	29.2	25.9	18.2
25–29 years	5.0	8.8	3.1	1.3
30 years or older	9.5	12.6	4.4	1.3
Race–ethnicity				
White	78.8	75.9	79.9	83.1
Black	8.8	9.2	10.7	6.3
Hispanic	7.6	10.5	6.4	4.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.0	3.6	2.9	5.3
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.7	1.0	0.2	0.8
Marital status in 1989–90				
Not married ²	86.7	80.2	91.5	96.6
Married	12.2	18.0	7.5	3.2
Separated	1.2	1.7	1.0	0.1
Dependency status in 1989–90				
Dependent	74.0	63.0	80.2	91.1
Single independent	10.9	14.9	10.9	4.3
Independent with dependents	15.1	22.1	9.0	4.5
Socioeconomic status in 1989–90 ³				
Lowest quartile	14.7	23.3	8.2	2.2
Middle quartiles	45.7	58.4	53.6	24.2
Highest quartile	39.7	18.3	38.2	73.7
Educational aspirations in 1989–90				
Trade school	9.1	14.2	8.0	1.9
2-year degree	12.8	18.4	10.6	6.2
Bachelor's degree	35.9	37.7	37.2	33.2
Advanced degree	42.1	29.6	44.2	58.7
SAT total score				
Less than 600	4.6	6.1	4.3	3.8
600–799	21.9	31.2	24.1	15.6
800–999	35.6	36.3	36.7	35.0
1,000–1,199	26.9	22.4	27.8	29.2
1,200–1,399	9.6	3.6	6.1	14.3
1,400 or more	1.4	0.3	1.0	2.1

¹ The highest educational attainment of either parent was no college for 43 percent of students, some college for 23 percent of students, and a bachelor's or advanced degree for 34 percent.

² "Not married" includes single, never married; living as married, never married; divorced; widowed; and living as married, previously divorced.

³ These SES quartiles, defined in the NSPAS:90 data, include not only beginning postsecondary students but also all first-year students. Since students in the BPS:89/90 sample were more likely than other first-year students to be in the highest quartile, the percentage in the highest quartile in the total column is greater than 25.

NOTE: Details may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1989–90 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study, Second Follow-up (BPS:90/94), Data Analysis System.